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OPIUM SMOKING IN CHINA.

[The following account of the habit of opium-smoking among the Chinese, was recently read to the Westminster Medical Society by Dr. James Johnson, to whom it was sent by G. H. Smith, Esq., of Pulo Penang.]

The great extent to which this destructive vice is carried on in this island, and in the straits and islands adjacent, together with the almost utter impossibility of relinquishing the dreadful habit, when once acquired, opens an immense source of revenue to the East India Company, who monopolize the sale of all quantities of opium under a chest, as well as that of arrack, seree, toddy, bang, &c. The annual average revenue of this monopoly, or "revenue-farms," as they are called, for ten years past, has amounted to £4822 sterling. But the quantity of opium smuggled is immense and incalculable. Benares opium is that chiefly used by the farmer for the preparation of "chandoo" (the composition smoked), on account of its weight and cheapness; but the consumers prefer the Patna opium, because it has a finer flavor, is stronger, and its effects more lasting.

The following is part of the mode of preparing the chandoo. Two balls are as much as one man can properly prepare at once. The soft inside part of the opium ball is scooped out, and the rind is boiled in soft water, and strained through a piece of calico. The liquor is evaporated in a wide vessel, and all impurities carefully skimmed off, as they rise to the surface. The same process is gone through with the soft opium extracted from the ball; and all being mixed and evaporated to the consistence of dough, it is spread out into thin plates, and when cold, it is cut into a number of long narrow slips. These are again reduced to powder, re-dissolved, again evaporated, and ultimately rolled up into balls, and a good deal resemble shoe-maker's wax. In this state it is fit for smoking, and is at least twice the strength of crude opium. The chandoo, when once smoked, does not entirely lose its powers, but is collected from the head of the pipe, and is then called "tye-chandoo," or fecal opium, which is made into pills, and swallowed by those whose poverty prevents them from smoking the chandoo itself.

In Penang, the opium-smokers are the Chinese, the Malays and a very few of other nations, chiefly the native Portuguese. It is calculated that 10 per cent. of the Chinese,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  of the Malays, and about 1 per cent. of other natives, are addicted to the vice of opium-smoking. The poorer classes smoke in the shops erected for that purpose, but the

wealthier orders smoke privately in their own houses. The practice is almost entirely confined to the male sex, a few abandoned prostitutes of the other sex partaking of the vice. A young beginner will not be able to smoke more than five or six grains of chandoo, while the old practitioners will consume two hundred and ninety grains daily!

The causes which lead to this dreadful habit among the Chinese are—first, their remarkably social and luxurious disposition. In China, every person in easy circumstances has a saloon in his house, elegantly fitted up, to receive his friends, with pipes, chandoo, &c. All are invited to smoke, and many are thus induced to commence the practice from curiosity or politeness, though few of them are ever able to discontinue the vice afterwards.

Parents are in the habit of granting this indulgence to their children, apparently to prevent them from running into other vices still more detestable, and to which the Chinese are more prone than, perhaps, any people on earth. There is another cause which leads great numbers of young men into the practice of opium-smoking—a belief, founded, it is said, on experience, that the said practice heightens and prolongs venereal pleasures. It is, however, admitted by all, that opium-smokers become impotent at a much earlier period of life than others. In painful or incurable diseases, in all kinds of mental or corporeal sufferings, in mercantile misfortunes, and in other reverses of fortune, the opium-shop is resorted to as an asylum, where, for a time at least, the unfortunate may drown the recollection of his cares and troubles in an indescribably pleasurable feeling of indifference to all around. The Malays are confident that opium-smoking inspires them with preternatural courage and bodily strength; it is, therefore, resorted to whenever any desperate act is in contemplation.

The smoking-shops are the most miserable and wretched places imaginable; they are kept open from six in the morning till ten o'clock at night, each being furnished with from four to eight bedsteads, constructed of bamboo spars, and covered with dirty mats and rattans. At the head of each there is placed a narrow wooden stool, which serves as a pillow or bolster; and in the centre of each shop there is a small lamp, which, while serving to light the pipes, diffuses a cheerless light through the gloomy abode of vice and misery. On an old table are placed a few cups and a tea-kettle, together with a jug of water, for the use of the smokers. At one side of the door the sub-farmer, or cabaret-keeper, sits, with chandoo, pipes, &c., for the accommodation of his customers. The place is filled with the smoke of the chandoo, and with a variety of other vapors, most intolerable to the olfactories of an European. The pipe is composed of a shank and a head-piece, the former made of hard and heavy wood, fourteen inches long by three inches and a half in circumference. It is bored through the centre, from the mouth-piece to the head, where there is a kind of cup to collect the "tye-chandoo."

The smokers generally go in pairs, and recline on the bedstead, with head resting on the wooden stool. The mode of proceeding is as follows: first, one of the pair takes up a piece of chandoo on the point of a short iron needle, and lighting it at the lamp, applies it to the small

aperture (resembling the touchhole of a gun), in the head of the pipe. After a few whiffs he hands the pipe to his friend, who lights another piece of chandoo at the lamp; and thus they go on alternately smoking till they have had sufficient, or until they are unable to purchase any more of the intoxicating drug. The fume is always expelled through the nose, and old stagers even draw it into their lungs before it is expired.

During this time, they are at first loquacious, and the conversation highly animated; but, as the opium takes effect, the conversation droops, and they frequently burst out into loud laughter, from the most trifling causes, or without any apparent cause at all, unless it be from the train of thoughts passing through their excited imaginations. The next phase presents a vacancy of countenance, with pallor, and shrinking of the features, so that they resemble people convalescing from a fever. A dead silence precedes a deep sleep, which continues from half an hour to three or four hours. In this state the pulse becomes much slower, softer and smaller than before the debauch. Such is the general process almost invariably observed among the Chinese; but with the Malays it is often very different. Instead of the placidity that ushers in the profound sleep, the Malays frequently become outrageously violent and quarrelsome, and lives are occasionally lost in these frightful orgies!

The chandoo is sometimes employed for the purpose of self-destruction; but from its strong smell and taste, it is never used as poison for others. It does not appear that sudden death is ever produced by an over-dose of chandoo when used in smoking. When an inordinate quantity has been expended in this way, headache, vertigo and nausea are the effects, and are only relieved by vomiting.

When a person has once contracted the habit of opium-smoking, he finds it extremely difficult to discontinue the vice; yet there are many instances of its being conquered by resolution of mind. In such attempts it is most dangerous to approach the opium-shops, as the smell of the chandoo produces an irresistible desire to indulge once more in the pernicious habit; neither can opium-smoking be suddenly abandoned without some substitute, as the most serious or even fatal consequences would ensue. The best substitute is a tincture of the "tye-chandoo" (which is about one fourth the strength of the chandoo itself), made with lamsoo, a spirit made from rice, and taken in gradually diminished doses till the habit is broken.

By a continuance in this destructive practice, the physical constitution and the moral character of the individual are deteriorated or destroyed, especially among the lower classes, who are impelled to the commission of crimes, in order to obtain the means of indulging in their dominant vice.

The hospitals and poor-houses are chiefly filled with opium-smokers. In one that I had charge of, the inmates averaged sixty daily, five-sixths of whom were smokers of chandoo. The baneful effects of this habit on the human constitution are conspicuously displayed by stupor, forgetfulness, general deterioration of all the mental faculties, emaciation, debility, sallow complexion, lividity of lips and eyelids, languor and lacklustre of eye, appetite either destroyed or depraved, sweetmeats or sugar-

cane being the articles that are most relished. In the morning these creatures have a most wretched appearance, evincing no symptoms of being refreshed or invigorated by sleep, however profound. There is a remarkable dryness or burning in the throat, which urges them to repeat the opium-smoking. If the dose be not taken at the usual time, there is great prostration, vertigo, torpor, discharge of water from the eyes, and in some an involuntary discharge of semen, even when wide awake. If the privation be complete, a still more formidable train of phenomena take place. Coldness is felt over the whole body, with aching pains in all parts. Diarrhœa occurs—the most horrid feelings of wretchedness come on; and if the poison be withheld, death terminates the victim's existence.

It is generally remarked, as might, *a priori*, be expected, that the offspring of opium-smokers are weak, stunted, and decrepit. It does not appear, however, that the Chinese, in easy circumstances, and who have the comforts of life about them, are materially affected in respect to longevity, by the private addiction to this vice, so destructive to those who live in poverty and distress. There are many persons within the sphere of my own observation, who have attained the age of sixty, seventy, and more, and who are well known as habitual opium-smokers for more than thirty years past. It is a well-known fact, that the present emperor of China was a slave to the pernicious habit of smoking opium for many years; but that, by great moral courage and perseverance, he weaned himself from the vice, and has ever since become a most violent persecutor of those who are addicted to the indulgence. He accordingly issued edicts of severe punishment against the smoker, vender, importer, and all concerned in the traffic of opium; and, finding these ineffectual, he made the crime capital, and punished it with death. Whatever may be said in favor of the opium-traders, and against the policy or justice of the Chinese emperor, I am convinced in my own mind that the real object of his edicts was the good of his subjects, and that he hoped, however vainly, to eradicate a vice destructive alike of the health and morality of those who became its victims. But his Majesty's government acted on very different principles; namely, the most selfish, venal and mercenary. It is a notorious fact, that many, perhaps most of the officers, employed in preventing the importation and smuggling of opium, are themselves opium-eaters or opium-smokers, and consequently that they wink at the illicit trade, or take bribes of opium or dollars for the introduction of the drug. It is well known now that in several of the southern provinces of China opium is cultivated to a great extent, without any check from the local authorities, and, doubtless, without any knowledge of the emperor himself. The propensity to opium-smoking is becoming so universal and so irresistible in China, that no sumptuary laws, however sanguinary, will be able to stem the torrent. In Penang excessive duties have only increased the thirst for opium; and what is worse, they have quadrupled the number of murders and other crimes committed in order to obtain the means of procuring the drug!

*Note by Dr. Johnson.*—The foregoing paper has been laid before the

Society, partly because the subject is curious, and little known in this country, but chiefly for the purpose of offering one or two practical suggestions to the members.

First. I think it will be admitted that the Chinese mode of taking opium, by smoking or inhalation, induces the peculiar sedative effects of that drug more powerfully and more speedily than when taken into the stomach.

Second. There can, I believe, be little doubt, that these effects are produced chiefly, if not entirely, through the medium of the nervous system, and not by digestion, absorption, and the circulation.

Third. It does not appear that the casual or temporary smoking of opium is more dangerous or injurious to the constitution than that of swallowing the drug, whether in substance or solution. On the contrary, I believe it is less so, and not so likely to impair the functions of the stomach, liver, and bowels, as when directly applied to the digestive apparatus.

Fourth. The *habitual abuse* of a drug, by which, in fact, it is converted into a poison, is no argument or reason against its occasional exhibition as a remedial agent.

Fifth. If the above observations be admitted as rational, I see no reason why we should not employ the Chinese mode of inhaling the fumes of opium, in certain dangerous and painful maladies, where the common mode is found to be inefficient, and attended with great derangement of the digestive organs. It is clear that we can very seldom induce that profound sleep and insensibility to all mental misery and corporeal pain, by opium taken into the stomach, which we find to be produced by the inhalation of its fumes acting directly on the brain through the medium of the nerves. Might not the Chinese mode, then, be adopted in tetanus, hydrophobia, tic-douloureux (especially of the facial nerves), violent spasms, and painful diseases that defy the power of opium taken in the common way?

The various preparations of morphia might be easily smoked by means of a common pipe, and the powerful effects induced in a very short space of time, without the possibility of their being rejected by the stomach, or prevented from acting energetically on the sensorium, and throughout the whole nervous system.—*London Lancet.*

#### INTERESTING CASE OF A BLIND AND DEAF MUTE.

[In the tenth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind, Dr. Howe, the Secretary, has reported two new cases, occurring in that Institution, of blindness connected with loss of hearing and speech, with further remarks on the two previous cases of Laura Bridgman and Julia Brace. One of them we extract, and may hereafter refer more particularly to the other. The subject of this distressing affliction is a boy named Oliver Caswell.]

This lad was born November 1, 1829. He continued in health and

in the possession of his senses until he was three years and four months old. He was considered a bright boy, and could prattle as freely as any child of his age.

He was then attacked by scarlet fever, and *canker-rash*; at the end of four weeks it was perceived that he could not hear, in a few weeks more his sight began to fail, and he soon became entirely blind.

He continued to articulate for some time, but with less and less distinctness, until, at the end of six months, he lost all power of articulation. He used then to feel of his own lips, and those of others, when talking, probably to ascertain whether he had them in the right position.

As soon as he recovered his health he re-commenced the process of examining everything about him, with which all children begin their acquaintance with the world. He first examined and became familiar with his chamber, then the rest of the rooms in the house, then ventured out into the yard, and in the course of a few years explored the way to the neighboring houses. He felt and smelt of everything that he could lay his hands upon. His father is a ferryman, and he often took the boy with him in his boat, which greatly pleased him. He seemed to be a bold child, and would caress dogs and cats. He has been known to call fowls around him with crumbs of bread, and suddenly to grab one of them, to feel of it, smell of it, and then let it go.

He had never seen a dead person. A horse which he had known, died, and he recognized it, and seemed much agitated; for several days he made signs about it, and lost his appetite, as his mother thinks, in consequence of his agitation.

He was present at the killing of a hog, and was made to understand the operation; also that the pork was part of the animal, but he did not object to eating it.

He was fond of teasing cats, and generally inclined to fun. He could make many of his wants understood by signs.

He was, however, ungovernable, and when thwarted in any way he became very violent, braying, striking, and kicking furiously.

Such was the account which I gathered from his parents. I first saw the boy three years ago, but could not then persuade his parents to part with him.

They finally brought him and committed him to my charge on the 30th of September last. He was then a stout, thick-set boy, rather short of stature, with light hair, fair complexion, and a most pleasant expression of countenance. He seemed perfectly docile and confiding, and his intelligent look and eager gestures proclaimed that there was intellect enough within, could one but establish the means of communication with it.

His thirst for knowledge proclaimed itself as soon as he entered the house, by his eager examination of everything he could feel or smell in his new location. For instance, treading upon the register of a furnace, he instantly stooped down, and began to feel of it, and soon discovered the way in which the upper plate moved upon the lower one; but this was not enough for him, so laying down upon his face, he applied his tongue first to one, then to the other, and seemed to discover that they were of different kinds of metal.

His signs were expressive, and the strictly natural language, laughing, crying, sighing, kissing, embracing, &c. was perfect.

Some of the analogical signs which (guided by his faculty of imitation) he had contrived, were comprehensible, such as the waving motion of his hand for the motion of a boat, the circular one for a wheel, &c.

The first object was to break up the use of these signs, and to substitute therefor the use of purely arbitrary ones.

Profiting by the experience I had gained in the other cases, I omitted several steps of the process before employed, and commenced at once with the finger language. Taking, therefore, several articles having short names, such as key, cup, mug, &c.; and with Laura for an auxiliary, I sat down, and taking his hand, placed it upon one of them, and then with my own, made the letters *k e y*. He felt eagerly of my hands with both of his, and on my repeating the process, he evidently tried to imitate the motions of my fingers. In a few minutes he contrived to feel the motions of my fingers with one hand, and holding out the other he tried to imitate them, laughing most heartily when he succeeded. Laura was by, interested even to agitation, and the two presented a singular sight; her face was flushed and anxious, and her fingers twined in among ours so closely as to follow every motion, but so lightly as not to embarrass them; while Oliver stood attentive, his head a little aside, his face turned up, his left hand grasping mine, and his right held out; at every motion of my fingers his countenance betokened keen attention—there was an expression of anxiety as he tried to imitate the motions—then a smile came stealing out as he thought he could do so, and spread into a joyous laugh the moment he succeeded, and felt me pat his head, and Laura clap him heartily upon the back, and jump up and down in her joy.

He learned more than a half dozen letters in half an hour, and seemed delighted with his success, at least in gaining approbation. His attention then began to flag, and I commenced playing with him. It was evident that in all this he had merely been imitating the motions of my fingers, and placing his hand upon the key, cup, &c., as part of the process, without any perception of the relation between the sign and the object.

When he was tired with play I took him back to the table, and he was quite ready to begin again his process of imitation. He soon learned to make the letters for *key*, *pen*, *pin*; and by having the object repeatedly placed in his hand, he at last perceived the relation I wished to establish between them. This was evident because, when I made the letters *p i n*, or *p e n*, or *c u p*, he would select the article.

The perception of this relation was not accompanied by that radiant flash of intelligence, and that glow of joy which marked the delightful moment when Laura first perceived it. I then placed all the articles on the table, and going away a little distance with the children placed Oliver's fingers in the positions to spell *key*, on which Laura went and brought the article; the little fellow seemed to be much amused by this, and looked very attentive and smiling. I then caused him to make the letters *bread*, and in an instant Laura went and brought him a piece; he smelled at it—put it to his lips—cocked up his head with a most knowing look—seem-

ed to reflect a moment—and then laughed outright, as much as to say, “aha! I understand now how something may be made out of this.”

It was now clear that he had the capacity and inclination to learn, that he was a proper subject for instruction, and needed only persevering attention. I therefore put him in the hands of an intelligent teacher, nothing doubting of his rapid progress.

I will not now go much into the detail of the process of teaching him words, as it is similar to that given in the case of Laura; suffice it to say, he has learned about a hundred nouns, and some adjectives, which he uses with the nouns, making a sort of compound substantive. Sometimes he uses a noun in a verbal sense, in short, uses language much as a child who is just beginning to talk.

One or two examples will show his manner of using the few words which he has learned. Coming up to his teacher he spelled upon his fingers, *Fred*, meaning that he wanted Frederick; she went with him to the room where Frederick usually sits, but he was not to be found, when Oliver spelt *Fred—Smith*, meaning that Fred. was in Smith's room, and went there to find him. Having no explicative terms, he of course must turn his few words to every possible use, and make a noun serve for adjective, verb, adverb, preposition and conjunction.

At another time, wishing to say that he had cut his finger with a plane, he said, *cut—plane*. Of course this often causes great ambiguity, as in the following case: the carpenter had been to repair the boat, and Oliver accompanied him; returning, he said, *Bradford—break—boat*; doubtless, meaning Bradford mended a break in the boat, but he did not know the word mend. On another occasion, learning that Frederick had broken a pane of glass, he said, *Fred—window—break—glass*.

A little reflection will show any one that he can eke out his meaning just as other children do, by signs. When it was attempted to give him a name expressive of the quality of objects, a difficulty occurred immediately: he knew the names of key, door, watch, and when his teacher spelled either word, he would go to the table and select it; he knew, too, the nature of each, showing by signs that a door-key was to lock a door, a watch-key to wind a watch, yet the compound word, watch-key, gave him no idea of the thing. Nevertheless, as I said, he uses verbs and adjectives, that is, he uses signs significant of actions and qualities; he holds up a key and makes the letters *key*, that is the noun; he then makes a sign for turning the key, which sign is the verb.

We see the same process in little children; they first learn the name of an object, and for a long time use the name to express whatever idea they may have of the thing: a child will say *mamma! mamma!* to express the perception or knowledge of its mother, using only a noun; but if it wants its mother, it says, *mamma* (a noun), and stretches out its arms, which motion is a verb, or a sign significative of its desire. When its vocabulary is increased, it substitutes a vocal for the natural sign, and it says, *want mamma*, still stretching out its arms, because the original sign is still suggested by the thought; until by long use the word *want* becomes the most familiar sign of the idea, and then it says, *I want mamma*, and drops the original sign of stretching out its arms. Still

it is curious to observe how long the original sign will linger in the memory. On all ordinary occasions, the child uses the word *want* as a substitute for the original sign of stretching out the hands, but when it is frightened or much agitated, when its little soul yearns strongly for instant contact with its mother, it resorts immediately and spontaneously to its first sign, it stretches out its arms, and without saying *I want*, cries *mamma* !

Now it will not be until Oliver has become accustomed to use words freely as substitutes for his signs of things, that he can be expected to resort to adjectives, verbs, &c. ; in this respect, I fear he will never equal Laura, because he has not her quickness of thought, and delicacy of organization. Nevertheless, I consider his progress to the acquisition of a considerable familiarity with arbitrary language as certain, provided he can have patient and long-continued instruction.

I will give an instance of his temper, as a specimen of what would have been his conduct had he gone on without any training. Soon after the lesson which I have described above, at which I left him, so interested and so joyous, I returned and found the scene sadly changed. Master Oliver was in the sulks ; his countenance, so lately bright with joy, was now dark and lowering ; his head was drawn in between his shoulders in the attitude of caution and defiance ; and his whole appearance denoted wrath and dogged obstinacy. He had in play thrown something on the floor, and his teacher took his hand to place it upon the object, and make him pick it up ; he refused, perhaps in play ; and though his hand was on the object, would not grasp it. The teacher, thinking it necessary to conquer him, continued to hold his hand on the object, at which he seemed displeased, and at this juncture his mother joining to urge him, he flew into a passion. He had never been controlled, and his animal nature was now aroused : a colt could not start away more restive, when the saddle is first placed on his back, than did Oliver when I placed my hand on his head ; and when I repeated it, he flew at me, hands and feet, as furiously as a madman. I saw at once that without a cruel scene I could not conquer him, but resolved to accomplish what he must have perceived I intended to do, that is, caress him, and sit beside him. He resisted furiously when I attempted this, striking, kicking and scratching ; but when he saw I warded off his blows or did not mind them when they hit, and that his nails had been cut too short to pierce my skin, he quickly curled down his head and bit at my hands. He was strong and active as a young savage, but I continued to grasp and hold his wrists, and after a few convulsive efforts he desisted at a lucky moment for me, and roared out lustily ; not crying, he was too much enraged for that, but sprawling his jaws wide open, and emitting a hideous noise, partaking of a bray, a roar, and a yell. I then relaxed my grasp, and although he did not fly at me, he pushed off my hands when I attempted to pat him on the head, nor would he suffer any endearment for half an hour. I still persevered, however, and at last succeeded in kissing him ; and though he was sullen, the storm was dispelled by the odor of some cologne water with which I seduced his senses. I was very much afraid that he was not conquered, and that a painful scene would

have to be enacted the first time I could be sure that he understood my meaning and will, and refused obedience; because he must be taught to obey, or else every time his passion should be roused he would be mischievous; and when grown up might *run a muck*, which would be dangerous. I have been, however, most agreeably disappointed, for from that time to this he has been perfectly docile, and very affectionate, never in one instance meeting me without a smile and a caress.

Once, indeed, he was teased by a boy beyond his endurance, and attacked him furiously; the boy got away, and Oliver groped around till he found some one to whom he eagerly expressed his wrath, by pointing for the boy, and drawing his hand across his own windpipe, as if to say, "I'll cut his throat," putting on, at the same time, a very ferocious look. He evidently had not forgotten the lesson he had learned at the pig-slaying exhibition, which had so unwisely been explained to him.

I regret that the length to which this Report is already swelled, will not permit me to dwell longer upon this interesting boy, who has a manly, courageous temper, an amiable and affectionate heart, and a good intellect; and who will, I doubt not, become an intelligent and useful man.

#### COUNTER-EXTENDING BANDS IN FRACTURES.

BY REYNELL COATES, M.D., PHILADELPHIA.

THE following is a description of the counter-extending bands introduced by me many years ago, and well known to the profession in this city. They have been repeatedly described in former papers, and are of a nature to reduce the danger of excoriation of the perineum to a minimum.

Take a piece of brown Holland linen (not muslin) three and a half inches in width (for an adult), and long enough to extend from about six or seven inches above Poupart's ligament in front, around the perineum, below the tuberosity of the ischium, and thence upwards over the nates to the level of the summit of the sacrum. Double this strip in the direction of its width, and secure the edges by a firm longitudinal seam, leaving about a quarter of an inch of selvage. Then revert the linen tube thus formed, so as to throw the selvage inwards, and secure one extremity of the tube to three quarters of a yard of tape, without puckering or irregular folds. Choosing this for the anterior part of your band; determine how much of its length will probably be required to rest upon the front of the abdomen above Poupart's ligament when the apparatus is applied; fill this with bran, not tightly packed, and secure it in place by basting across the tube, until you can quilt it down firmly and flat with saddler's silk, making one of the flattened sides to correspond with the longitudinal seam. In the next place mark the probable length of that part of the band which will extend round the perineum, from Poupart's ligament fully to the tuberosity of the ischium; pick out the basting, and proceed gradually to stuff this portion of the tube with bran driven down by a round stick about an inch

thick, as firmly as possible, without endangering the bursting of the band or rendering it too inflexible for convenient application. Having accomplished this, fill the balance of the tube with unpacked bran; attach a similar piece of tape to the posterior extremity; close it and quilt it like the anterior extremity. This band presents a solid, but flexible cylinder, of one inch diameter to the perineum, with flattened extremities, bearing the weight of the pelvis or pressing upon the abdomen; it is almost perfectly inextensible throughout, and, by the flatness of the ends, the skin is effectually secured from contact with the longitudinal seam. The material is also one of the least irritating that can be employed; but, by the action of the perspiration and other accidents, the linen may become foul and the bran matted and hard. To remedy this evil, the round part of the cylinder should be inclosed in another tube, formed by lightly stitching together the edges of a strip of buckskin, face to face, without selvage; which is very easily done; and even this seam should be carefully turned from the perineum and scrotum when the tube is drawn over the cylinder. When occasion requires it, this buckskin tube may be replaced by another, without moving either the body or the limb of the patient.

• The cotton and tow so frequently employed in stuffing counter-extending bands, are extremely objectionable, because they invariably become matted, irregular and knotty.

I am fully convinced that under proper attention to the hints given above, excoriation or ulceration of the perineum will never occur from the direct action of a counter-extending band, when the forces employed do not greatly exceed the necessary and warrantable amount.—*Medical Examiner.*

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PES EQUINUS VARUS,

SUCCESSFULLY TREATED AT THE BOSTON ORTHOPEDIC INFIRMARY, BY JOHN E. BROWN, M.D.

*To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SIR,—I noticed in No. 14 of your Journal, a communication from the Rev. Chauncey Eddy, dated Saratoga, N. Y., giving a representation of his son's case of club-foot; and happening to have in my possession the casts of the foot referred to, I take the liberty of sending you a wood-cut of the same, to be inserted in the Journal. I will observe that when Mr. Eddy's son first came under my care, there was no motion of the ankle-joint. Such was the rigidity of the muscles, that the tibia and fibula did not move on the astragalus. Now the motion is as free as in the other foot. Mr. Eddy says, in his communication, "Now it is about twenty months," &c. It is true, that from the time his son entered the Infirmary to the date of Mr. Eddy's communication, twenty months had intervened; but it may, perhaps, be well to observe, that the lad had spent three fourths of that time at his father's residence in Saratoga, N. Y. It is unnecessary to occupy your pages by giving a minute detail of treatment. Suffice it to say, that those tendons which

restrained and kept the foot fixed in its unnatural position, were divided, and some of them more than once.

FIG. 1.

FIG. 2.



In the above cut, fig. 2 represents the foot as it was before the lad was brought to me for treatment; fig. 1 shows it as it now is.

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BOSTON, MAY 25, 1842.

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### ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

MUCH pleasure is evidently anticipated by the members on this anniversary. All the old vexatious questions that were matters of unsatisfactory discussion on two or three of the last meetings, are happily well disposed of, and there appears to be nothing now before the Society but its legitimate business. After the election of Counsellors, &c., and listening to the address by Dr. Williams, the orator, from Deerfield, there is to be a dinner. There is hardly a sufficient apology to be made by any physician in Massachusetts for not being present, with such facilities for reaching the metropolis as now exist in the various railroads leading to the city.

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*Medical Charities.*—Here in Massachusetts, and particularly in Boston, all kinds of societies are successfully organized for meting out temporal blessings to the unfortunate—with one single exception. No provision has yet been made for the widows and orphans of our deceased professional brethren. This is a great oversight. In other places they have not been so long neglected. It is said of physicians generally, that they are humane to everybody but themselves. They never refuse to labor or pay taxes for any benevolent object, which is calculated to promote human happiness or avert impending misfortune. One crowning act is necessary in Massachusetts: a fund must be raised, by a regular system of assessment from year to year, the interest of which should be sacredly

appropriated to the exclusive use of the widows and children of those who contributed to the object, if they ever stand in need of pecuniary assistance. Although we have repeatedly urged this topic upon the consideration of wise and controlling Fellows of the Medical Society, nothing has yet transpired to encourage a hope of action. In one instance we were told, with an air of self-complacency, by one who probably felt that his posterity were beyond the possibility of poverty, that we had *nothing to do with the poor*. All that is true: at least, we have done nothing for that class; but, nevertheless, something should be proposed, and if it could be presented to the Medical Society this morning, we are quite sure that it would be well received. In New York a special meeting was held at the Lyceum of Natural History, for the express purpose of establishing a fund. No man, however wealthy, can foresee the condition in which misfortune may place his wife and children, after his death. By a little self-denial while in health and prosperity, we can and ought to make provision for the families of our less fortunate fellow-laborers.

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*Perkins Asylum for the Blind.*—In the 10th Annual Report, a copy of which is respectfully acknowledged, Dr. Howe has produced a remarkably interesting series of facts for all classes of readers. Whatever relates to Laura Bridgman, the poor blind, deaf and dumb girl, is both new and extraordinary. The reports can be procured at the book-stores for a mere trifle. No more welcome treat could be sent to a distant philosophical friend, since the matter is novel, strange and exciting. The Institution is one of the charities of which all New England may be honestly proud, since it confers present happiness, and opens to the understanding of the poor sightless, the glorious prospect of a hereafter.

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*Louisville Academy of Medicine.*—It seems that an association has been formed at Louisville, Ky., for giving a complete course of medical instruction. The Academy, at present, is in an elementary condition, but presents all the usual features of a regularly-constructed school. Eight chairs are provided, embracing anatomy, physiology, pathology, obstetrics, clinical medicine, surgery, chemistry, &c., which will be sustained by a strong faculty. Some how it looks very much like the incipient stage of a rival institution to the Medical Institute. There is something a little war-like in the appearance, since Drs. *Flint* and *Bullitt* are prominent members of the board of control.

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*Elements of Materia Medica.*—An occasional set of Dr. Pereira's *Elements of Materia Medica*, an uncommonly attractive work, is brought to this country. Whenever offered in this city, the sale has been a ready one. In England the two volumes cost £2 10s., and Mr. Ticknor says the lowest price it can be sold for here is fourteen dollars. Even at that, which is really quite a large sum for a book in these times, the owner feels that he has the worth of the money. It is the most elegant, perfect and desirable treatise on the *materia medica* extant. If any publisher could be induced to republish it in this country, it is very certain that he would find it to his advantage. We have an impression that stereotyping would be the most economical method of bringing it out. Why some of the

bold publishing houses in Philadelphia have passed over such a promising field so long, is quite unaccountable. There was an eagerness manifested in throwing off editions of the Bridgewater treatises, which was altogether a more expensive undertaking, on account of the numerous copper-plate engravings: in Dr. Pereira's inimitable compendium of all that is worth knowing in one of the great departments of medical knowledge, all the illustrations may be executed on wood. We are not without a hope of seeing an American edition in the course of the summer—since the profit would probably be a generous one, even when sold at half the London price.

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*Treatment of Hernia.*—Dr. Henry G. Clark, residing in Hanover street, in this city, has been induced to turn his attention to a branch of the profession which was very successfully conducted by the late lamented Dr. Leach, who resided in the same street. Those who were in the habit of consulting that gentleman in regard to the surgical treatment of hernia, may with equal confidence solicit the advice of Dr. Clark. We shall be gratified to hear that he is well sustained by an intelligent public.

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*Pessaries.*—Notwithstanding the supposed improvement made in pessaries within the last few years, the kind invented by Dr. Brewer, constructed with a silver tube in the centre of a box-wood disk, has successfully outlived the most of them. Although very many have been manufactured already, the proprietor is about contracting for one thousand more, of superior workmanship. They can be procured at the well-known establishment of Messrs. Brewer, Stevens & Cushing, Washington street.

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*Inguinal Trusses.*—Mr. Phelps, the ingenious surgical-instrument maker, Court street, believes that he has devised a truss that is altogether superior to every contrivance before known to the public. Not being sufficiently familiar with the principle of its action, or its mechanism, to describe the apparatus intelligibly, those who are interested in the progress of this division of the arts, are recommended to call at Mr. Phelps's and examine for themselves. In point of delicate finish, no man in Boston understands giving to brass, iron or steel, a higher degree of polish, a better spring, or a keener edge, than our diligent neighbor, the artist above mentioned.

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*Debility, producing Amaurosis, from the excessive employment of Tobacco.*—Lieutenant \* \* \*, a young officer of dragoons, applied to me in consequence of a decidedly amaurotic affection. His sight was so imperfect that he could not perceive small objects even when near him. He informed me he had been in this state nearly three months, and that he was daily getting worse. The disease was attended with great debility and emaciation. He was, he said, unable to account for its origin; but on further inquiry, I discovered that he was in the habit of smoking cigars and tobacco to such an excess, that he had brought on a spitting almost amounting to pytalism: he was what is called an amateur, and to support his pretensions to this enviable distinction, used frequently to begin smoking soon after breakfast, and continue this peniculous custom during half

the day without intermission. With much persuasion, I prevailed on him to leave off this silly inmodern accomplishment; though I had great difficulty in convincing him that this was the true cause of his disease. He, however, did abandon it; and, by so doing, and taking a little tonic medicine, his sight is now perfectly restored, and his health regained.—*Curtis's Treatise on the Eye.*

*Medical Miscellany.*—Dr. J. Kearney Rodgers, surgeon of the New York Hospital, has opened a private surgical retreat in that city.—Dr. Dunbar has resigned the chair of surgery and surgical anatomy in the Washington University, at Baltimore—and also retired from the hospital, with which he was connected. Dr. Baxley has been appointed his successor in the College.—Among the gentlemen invited by the Secretary of War to visit the West Point Military School, on the first Monday in June, are Dr. Churchill J. Blackburn, of Kentucky; Dr. Benjamin W. Maclin, of Alabama, and Dr. Frederick Hall, of Washington, D. C.—There will be an adjourned meeting of the Alleghany County Medical Society, N. Y., on Tuesday, June 14th, to take into consideration the propriety of adopting a code of by-laws, and of imposing a tax on the physicians of the County.—Dr. J. A. Allen, an eminent physician of Middlebury, Vt., has published an instructive article in the paper called the *Topaz*, on the *epidemic erysipelatous fever* that occurred in that town in 1825-6 and in 1841-2, which should have been in a medical journal, to have met the eye of practitioners. It is a great mistake to write a professional essay for a newspaper, which is rarely seen by those for whom it is designed.—The Centreville (Ill.) Record says—in an advertisement—that the grave of Dr. S. G. Crawford will be opened to satisfy those “who will not believe he is dead.”—Bunge Thompson died on the 8th, in North Carolina, in consequence of the bite of a rattlesnake, twenty-four hours after receiving the wound just above the ankle.—A young physician, in Rome, is said to have discovered the means of petrefying dead bodies or parts of them, without changing their color materially. The process is effected readily in a few days. He has exhibited birds, fishes, flowers and human heads, beautifully changed to stone. This seems to be the art which was lost by the sudden death of Dr. Segato, of Florence, about four years ago.

MARRIED,—In Loudon, N. H., May 12th, by Rev. John Le Bosque, N. Quincy Tirrell, M.D., of Sutton, Mass., to Miss Susan Jane French, of the former place.—In Providence, R. I., J. B. Chapin, M.D., to Miss L. Valne.—In New York, Dr. Thos. F. Cock, to Miss Anna A. Wood.—At Nantucket, Mass., Dr. Henry Russell, to Miss Mary Mitchell.—At Quebec, Dr. J. R. Williams, surgeon of the 29th Regiment, just ordered to India, to Miss Jarvis, of that city.

DIED,—At Philadelphia, Dr. G. Platz, aged 33.—At Sutton, Mass., Dr. Artemas Bullard, 73—killed by falling from a barn scaffold.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending May 21, 48.—Males, 28; Females, 20. Stillborn, 3. Of consumption, 4—old age, 3—dropsy in the head, 2—infantile, 6—fits, 3—scarlet fever, 12—disease of the heart, 1—typhus fever, 1—throat distemper, 2—erysipelas, 3—debility, 2—tabes ascaræ, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—palsy, 1—bowel complaint, 1—teething, 1—lung fever, 1.

#### TREATMENT OF HERNIA.—DR. CHASE'S TRUSS.

THE undersigned hereby gives notice, that he is furnished with the various instruments invented by Heber Chase, M.D., of Philadelphia, for the radical cure of Hernia; and will continue to attend personally to their application, as he has heretofore done during the absence of the late Dr. E. W. Leach, of this city.

May 19, 1842.

My 25—

HENRY G. CLARK, M.D.,

No. 204 Hanover street, Boston.

## MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society will be held at the Temple, Tremont street, on Wednesday, the 25th inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M. The annual discourse will be delivered at 1 o'clock, by Stephen W. Williams, M.D., of Deerfield. Literary gentlemen interested in medical science, and students in medicine, are respectfully invited to attend. Dinner at half past 3, at the United States Hotel, opposite the Boston and Worcester Railroad Depot.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors will be held on the day following, at the Society's room, Temple, Tremont street, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

My 18—tm

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.,

Recording Secretary.

## MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers at their room, 5 1-2 Tremont Row, continue to give instruction in all the branches of a thorough medical education, in connection with attendance on the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Infirmary for Diseases of the Lungs, the practical study of anatomy, &c.

Ap. 6—

H. I. BOWDITCH,  
H. G. WILEY,  
G. C. SHATTUCK, JR.  
S. PARKMAN.

## MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscriber, Physician and Surgeon to the Marine Hospital, Chelsea, will receive pupils and give personal instruction in the various branches of medical science. He will devote to them such time, and afford them such opportunities and facilities for study and practice, as are essential for a thorough and practical medical education. The medical and surgical practice of the Hospital will be constantly open to his students, and clinical instruction, on the cases as they occur, will be given. Abundant facilities for obtaining a correct knowledge of materia medica and the dispensing of medicines will be afforded.—For terms, and more particular information, application can be made at the Hospital or by letter.

Chelsea, September, 1841.

Sep. 8—eoptf.

GEORGE W. OTIS, JR.

## SUMMER COURSE OF LECTURES,

AT THE MARINE HOSPITAL, QUEBEC.

THE situation of Quebec—the great amount of shipping which its harbor contains during the summer season—the number of emigrants, seamen and strangers, which during that season increase its population—the many and various diseases and accidents admitted into the hospital (amounting during the last year to nearly 1,900 patients), are some of the advantages which render that city a most eligible place for the establishment of a school of medicine and surgery.

To enable the medical student to derive the greatest possible advantage from this extended field of observation, the undersigned have resolved, during the ensuing summer, to give a course of Lectures on the following branches:—

Surgery and Surgical Anatomy, by JAS. DOUGLAS, M.R.C.  
Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children, by DR. PAINCHAUD.  
Practice of Physic, by JAS. SEWELL, M.D.  
Medical Jurisprudence and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, by J. RACY, M.D.

The course will commence on the first Monday in May, and terminate on the first Saturday in October.

In connection with the above, a full course of Anatomy will be given during the winter months.

Ap. 13—4t

J. DOUGLAS, M.R.C.  
JOS. PAINCHAUD, M.D.  
JAS. A. SEWELL, M.R.C.E.  
JNO. RACY, M.D.E.

## INFIRMARY AT CONCORD, N. H.

FOR the surgical treatment of diseases of the eye and ear, club-feet, curvature of the spine, and other distortions of the joints, whether arising from muscular contractions or other causes.

Concord, N. H., March 25, 1842.

Ap. 6—

THO. CHADBOURNE, M.D.  
WILLIAM D. BUCK, M.D.

## ABDOMINAL SUPPORTERS.

DR. HAYNES's Instrument, which is recommended by the profession generally, may now be had at the Medical Journal office. Price, with perineal strap, only \$4—without, \$3.50. By addressing the publisher, No. 184 Washington street, physicians may be readily accommodated. A. 19

The Supporters may also be obtained of the following agents:—In New Hampshire, Drs J. A. Dana, N. Hampton; A. Harris, Colebrook; M. Parker, Acworth; J. Crosby, Meredith; E. Bartlett, Haverhill; D. Crosby, Haverhill; F. P. Fitch, Amherst; J. Smith, Dover; J. C. Eastman, Hamstead; C. B. Hamilton, Lyme; Stickney & Dexter, Lancaster; J. B. Abbott, Boscawen; N. Kendall & Co., Nashua. In Vermont, Dr. L. Jewett, St. Johnsbury. L. S. Bartlett, Lowell, Mass. J. Balch, Jr., Providence, R. I.

## IMPROVED SILVER CATHETER.

THE superior Silver Catheter, made by the subscriber, may be found at Metcalf's, No. 33 Tremont row. My 11—s

D. SMILEY, JR.

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